

hospitalization, but nevertheless to protect constitutional rights. The proposed changes are not radical but are effective in their essentials in other states.

It is expected that the changes proposed will appreciably decrease costs incident to commitment, through decreasing both the number of patients and the number of patient days in psychopathic wards pending further action, and will in no way increase such cost. The mentally disordered in California must be treated as sick persons.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Subject of Following Letter: Hospitalization of Veterans

*To the Editor:*—Enclosed herewith find a copy of a letter as per suggestion on page 407 of the December CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It occurred to me that the new paragraph 8, dealing with Los Angeles conditions, may have a suggestive value to other communities.

Cordially yours,

C. HIRAM WEAVER,

Paragraph 8 is as follows:

In the city of Los Angeles there are approximately ten standardized hospitals fully accredited by the American Hospital Association and American College of Surgeons, any or all of which at the present time are less than half filled to capacity with patients, and any of which are equipped and manned with appropriate staff members to care for the hospitalization of veterans and/or their beneficiaries; while at the same time, within approximately ten or twelve miles of the center of the city, there are approximately twenty-two hundred veterans as patients at the Sawtelle National Veterans' Hospital, 80 per cent of whom are nonservice-connected patients.

### Subject of Following Letter: Etching

*To the Editor:*—Recently, an etching by Pennell was brought into my office. At the time it struck me as though it might have been taken off some doctor's waiting-room wall. If anybody has missed an etching by Pennell, if they will communicate with Garfield 1336 I will be glad to talk with them.

Very truly yours,

H. B. GRAHAM.

### Subject of Following Letter: A Copy of a Letter from the President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association to the General Manager of the Los Angeles Times, Concerning the "Health Column" of That Newspaper.

December 15, 1932.

Mr. Harry Chandler,  
President, General Manager Los Angeles Times,  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Chandler:

I am in receipt of a copy of a letter of John L. Pomeroy, County Health Officer, addressed to Philip Lovell, M. D., editor of your newspaper's department "Care of the Body." A copy of Doctor Pomeroy's letter has been sent to the editor of the *Times*.

County Health Officer Pomeroy's letter discusses and answers certain unwarranted and false statements as to the practice of vaccination against smallpox and diphtheria. Doctor Pomeroy states facts and figures based upon his experience as health officer of this county over a period of eighteen years, and you as the director of a great newspaper should give this subject your serious consideration.

It is a grave menace to the public health interests of this community, and in particular to the lives and well-being of our children, that the editor of this important department should have unbridled liberty to disseminate his personal opinion upon health matters, when such views and opinions are not based on a proper foundation of education or personal experience. I am

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM R. MOLONY,  
President.

## NEW HOME OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

On December 15, the Los Angeles County Medical Association held a "house warming" in the new home of the association. From the May 5 and December 1, 1932, *Bulletins* of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the following excerpts are taken:

From the *Bulletin* of May 5:

Permanent quarters, or a home for the Los Angeles County Medical Association, has been discussed more or less for the last twenty-five years.

Several years ago, voluntary subscriptions to the permanent quarters fund were started, and in 1923 the Board of Trustees made it a requirement in the form of an initiation fee.

Through excellent management and certain propitious circumstances, some \$98,000 has grown in value to approximately \$350,000, which makes it seem possible for the association to bring to realization and actual construction, a home and meeting place for the members of the association.

As most of you know, we own three lots on the south-east corner of Westlake and Wilshire, upon which the Wilshire Medical Building is located, and leased from the association on a ninety-nine year lease, with a net income of \$10,500 per year, increasing to a guaranteed minimum of \$15,000 per year within a few years' time.

There have been certain suggestions that the association should not enter into a building program where the burden of maintenance should be carried by the members from dues. This is obviated when we consider that our present lease with its guaranteed income may be considered as the commercial aspect of the association's building program.

In addition, we own the lot at 669 South Westlake Avenue, which, in the minds of most of the members of the Board of Trustees and the Permanent Quarters Committee, is not suitable for the erection of our permanent quarters.

We also own the old Forve property at 427 South Westlake Avenue, which has a frontage of 200 feet, and some of the members of the Permanent Quarters Committee are in favor of altering the old home, making it suitable for meeting rooms, and then erect a library unit adjoining. This property carries a mortgage of \$25,000.

It is possible for us to exchange the two Westlake lots for an excellent corner on Wilshire Boulevard directly opposite our present Wilshire holding without increasing our liabilities. This would concentrate our realty holdings into two pieces of property, one leased on a ninety-nine year lease which may be considered as the income property, the other suitable for permanent quarters. . . .

From the *Bulletin* of December 1:

A home for the Los Angeles County Medical Association—at least a temporary home with meeting rooms and lounge room and offices—will be a reality within a few weeks' time.

Immediately after the property at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Westlake Avenue became the property of the association, the Board of Trustees decided to occupy the building that stands on this property, and voted that immediate steps be taken to place this building in condition for occupancy by the association. This work has been under way for two weeks.

The building is being redecorated, and with a few minor structural changes called for inside, should offer excellent facilities to the members during the time the library unit of the permanent quarters building program is being constructed and until such time as the permanent quarters building itself shall be erected.

The present building will provide adequate office space, and the offices of the association will be moved there the first part of December. A large room, to serve as a lounge room for members during the day and to serve at other times for section gatherings and as a meeting room for the Board of Councilors, is being equipped for these purposes. Another room is being equipped for committee meetings. This room will also serve for meetings of the Board of Trustees.

Provision is being made for those groups that are accustomed to having dinner meetings. These groups should find the quarters ideal. Arrangements have been made to provide the proper facilities for catering service for dinners and luncheons to those groups that wish to take advantage of such service.

Many of the general meetings of the association will be held in the auditorium at the rear of this building. This auditorium will seat approximately two hundred persons comfortably.

Only moderate expense is being entered into in making this building of definite value to the association. The building itself was found to be in good repair, and only minor changes were needed to make it serve its proper purpose.